

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 /071 W
----- 039602

R 120602Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5859

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: URBAN LAND REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

REF: (A) ADDIS 9385; (B) ADDIS 9530

1. BG BERHANE TEFFERRE, NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSIONER, TOLD DCM AND POL COUNSELOR AUG 8 THAT PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCLAMATION NATIONALIZING LAND AND EXTRA HOUSES WILL BEGIN MORNING AUG 9. (IN FACT, IMPLEMENTATION BEGAN AUG 10.)

ACCORDING COMMISSIONER, WHO IS MEMBER OF CABINET COMMITTEE DIRECTING URBAN LAND REFORM, PROCESS TO BEGIN WITH CENSUS BY FOUR-MAN TEAMS OF INHABITANTS EACH (500 FAMILY) "KEBELE" (CF REF A) INTO WHICH URBAN AREAS HAVE BEEN DIVIDED. TEAMS ARE MERELY TO REGISTER INHABITANTS IN EACH HOUSE WITHOUT PENETRATING PREMISES (CF. PARA 6 BELOW). EPMG TO BROADCAST DETAILED EXPLANATION AUG 9 OF WHAT TEAMS WILL AND WILL NOT DO IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE POPULATION AND TO ALLAY WIDESPREAD
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FEARS THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROCLAMATION IS LIKELY

INVOLVE FURTHER ZEMETCHA EXCESSES. (THIS WAS NOT DONE.)

2. COMMISSIONER SAID THAT AUTHORITIES HOPED TO COMPLETE PROCESS IN THREE SUCCESSIVE WEEKENDS "WHEN PEOPLE ARE AT HOME." TEAMS, BESIDES ENUMERATING INHABITANTS, WILL BRIEF THEM ON THE FORMATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS, WILL HELP SELECT OFFICERS THEREFOR AND WILL ASSIST WITH GETTING THESE ENTITIES SET UP. ASSOCIATIONS WILL THEN TAKE OVER ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONALIZED URBAN LAND AND PROPERTIES, ONE TO EACH "KEBELE."

3. COMMISSIONER CLAIMED THAT SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN TEAMS TO RESPECT DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PREMISES INCLUDING THOSE OCCUPIED BY EMPLOYEES OF FOREIGN MISSIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, EMBASSY'S EFFORTS AUG 8 TO OBTAIN AUTHORITATIVE VERSION OF INSTRUCTIONS ALLEGEDLY PROVIDED TEAMS FAILED TO BEAR FRUIT. MOFA, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS UNINFORMED.

4. EMB NEVERTHELESS ALERTED OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND URGED COOPERATION IN RESPONDING TO CENSUS-TYPE QUESTIONS POSED. WHILE SUNDAY MEDIA INDICATED THAT ALL TEN ADDIS ABABA DISTRICTS WOULD BE COVERED SUNDAY AND MONDAY# CENSUS TEAMS APPARENTLY STARTED VERY SLOWLY SUNDAY.

5. SUNDAY PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE FORMATION OF HOUSING COOPERATIVES IN ALL TEN ADDIS ABABA DISTRICTS WILL BE COMPLETED IN NEXT TWO WEEKS AND ALL 300 "KEBELES" WILL FORM THEIR HOUSING COMMITTEES. HOUSING COOPERATIVE OFFICIALS WILL BE ELECTED ONLY FROM AMONG INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN OWNING HOUSES.

6. ON AUG 11, EMBASSY RECEIVED A CIRCULAR NOTE (BACK?) DATED AUG 8 FROM MOFA. NOTE REQUESTED EMB'S COOPERATION TO PERMIT AUTHORIZED AGENT OF MINNRD, UPON APPOINTMENT, TO ENTER COMPOUNDS/PREMISES TO PREPARE INVENTORY OF "ALL PREMISES CONFISCATED BY THE GOVERNMENT." PURPOSE OF INVENTORY IS TO PERMIT MINNRD TO INSPECT AND REGISTER DETAILS, E.G. SIZE OF HOUSE, NUMBER OF ROOMS, ETC., SO THAT IT CAN CONSTITUTE PROPER RECORDS. EMBASSY PLANS COOPERATIVE RESPONSE SO WORDED AS TO EXCLUDE EMBASSY COMPOUND PREMISES.

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7. COMMENT: TO DATE, EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY REPORTS OF PROBLEMS OR INCIDENTS RELATING TO SURVEY TEAMS' WORK.
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